TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

HB 5017-18 HB 5088-89

BILL SHEFFER MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF RECREATION VEHICLES & CAMPGROUNDS

Before the

House Tourism-Outdoor Recreation & Natural Resources Committee

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Chairman Sheltrown and committee members, my name is Bill Sheffer and I am the Director of the Michigan Association of Recreation Vehicles and Campgrounds. I thank you for the opportunity to give testimony in support of House Bills 5017, 5018, 5088 and 5089. The passage of these bills is essential to the growth of the tourism industry and specifically the campground industry in Michigan.

There are about 8.2 million American households who own recreation vehicles. The average camping family spends nearly \$100 per day for a campsite, gas, food and entertainment. Michigan's natural resources lend themselves as great settings for peaceful and comfortable campgrounds. With over 1,200 licensed campgrounds representing over 80,000 campsites, Michigan is a natural destination for those millions of recreation vehicle owners.

The Pure Michigan promotion, if funded for future years, will serve as a enticing invitation for recreation vehicle owners to choose Michigan as their vacation destination.